



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS TX 75202-2733

OCT 17 2013

Mr. Martin Mayer, Chief
Regulatory Functions Branch
New Orleans District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Dear Mr. Mayer:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has participated on the Interagency Review Team (IRT) and reviewed the final version of the Ponderosa Ranch of Pointe Coupee Mitigation Bank Instrument submitted by Delta Land Services, LLC. The document is an agreement authorizing the establishment of the Ponderosa Ranch of Pointe Coupee Mitigation Bank, located in Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana.

The EPA has worked with the Corps and other members of the IRT in the development of the mitigation bank instrument (MBI). The final MBI and associated documents adequately address our previous recommendations for this mitigation bank. The EPA would support the use of the Ponderosa Ranch of Pointe Coupee Mitigation Bank to offset unavoidable adverse impacts to wetlands in accordance with the MBI.

Thank you for your continued collaboration with the EPA on this and other mitigation banking matters in the New Orleans District. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Dr. Raul Gutierrez of my staff at (214) 665-6697.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sharon Fancy Parrish", is positioned above the typed name.

Sharon Fancy Parrish
Chief
Wetlands Section

cc: USFWS, Lafayette, LA
LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA

TOPIC: Ponderosa Ranch Mitigation Banking Instrument

DATE: 29 May 2013

CONTACT: Raul Gutierrez, 6WQ-EM, 11.027, x6697

PURPOSE/ACTION NEEDED: Signature of letter of support

DEADLINE DATE: 04 June 2013

BACKGROUND:

The Ponderosa Ranch of Pointe Coupee Mitigation Banking Instrument authorizes the establishment, operation, maintenance, and use of the Ponderosa Ranch Mitigation Bank. The bank is located in Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana.

The project will restore 249.3 acres of bottomland hardwood forest and 52.6 acres of cypress swamp, enhance 2.1 acres of cypress swamp, and preserve 6.1 acres of bottomland hardwood forest. Hydrological improvements include the filling of 41,313 linear feet of internal drainage ditches. Additionally, approximately 100 acres will be treated for excessive tallow. Once work has been completed, the site will be protected under a conservation easement.

OTHER AGENCIES INVOLVED:

U.S. Corps of Engineers – New Orleans District

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

RECOMMENDATION:

Signature of letter of support





BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

ROBERT J. BARHAM
SECRETARY

JIMMY L. ANTHONY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

September 13, 2013

Mr. Martin S. Mayer, Chief
Regulatory Branch
New Orleans District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

RE: Banking Instrument – Ponderosa Ranch of Pointe Coupee Mitigation Bank

Dear Mr. Mayer:

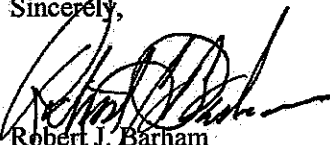
The professional staff of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has reviewed the final Mitigation Banking Instrument (MBI) for Ponderosa Ranch of Pointe Coupee Mitigation Bank. The sponsor proposes to re-establish, rehabilitate and enhance approximately 324 acres of bottomland hardwood forest in Pointe Coupee Parish.

Based upon the review of the MBI, a site inspection and after coordinating with the natural resource agencies of the Interagency Review Team, LDWF has concluded that it will support use of the proposed mitigation bank as compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to waters of the United States, including wetlands.

Additionally, the proposed mitigation bank will also provide valuable habitat for the federally listed Louisiana black bear. The restoration of forested wetlands in Pointe Coupee Parish will assist in the overall recovery and long-term success of this species.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries submits this recommendation to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.). Please do not hesitate to contact Kyle Balkum at 225-765-2819 should you need further assistance.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Barham
Secretary

kb

cc: EPA, Dallas, TX
USFWS, Lafayette, LA



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

646 Cajundome Blvd.
Suite 400
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506

August 29, 2013

RECEIVED
EPA REGION VI
13 SEP 17 PM 6:23
ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTION BR.

Mr. Brian Breaux
Special Projects and Policy Section
Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

Dear Mr. Breaux:

The Fish and Wildlife Service has reviewed the Final Mitigation Bank Instrument for the Enterprise Ponderosa Ranch of Pointe Coupee Wetlands Mitigation Bank. The proposed bank would be located in Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana, and would encompass 304 acres of bottomland hardwood and bald cypress swamp habitat. This report is submitted in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

The Service has been working with the Corps and the Bank Sponsor on the proposed bank, and has provided input to your office through the various stages of bank development. We conclude that the implementation and management of the proposed mitigation bank features would provide valuable habitat for a variety of wildlife species known to inhabit forested wetland ecosystems. Accordingly, the Service supports authorization of the proposed mitigation bank.

The above comments constitute the report of the Department of Interior. Please contact Patti Holland (337/291-3121) of this office if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Weller
Field Supervisor
Louisiana Ecological Services Office

cc: EPA, Dallas, TX
LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 60267
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

September 24, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Operations Division
Special Projects and Policy Team

SUBJECT: MVN 2011-03213-MB

Delta Land Services
Mr. Daniel Bollich
1090 Cinclare Drive
Port Allen, Louisiana 70767

Gentlemen:

This is in reference to your permit application requesting approval to remove five (5) culverts, deposit and redeposit fill material, grade existing drainages, and conduct appropriate vegetative plantings for the purposes of restoring surface hydrology to open pasture to establish the Ponderosa Ranch of Pointe Coupee Mitigation Bank, located in Section 101, T5S- R10E, and Sections 18 and 19, T5S-R11E, Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana.

This office has made the determination that your project is authorized by **Nationwide Permit Numbered 27**, as found in the February 21, 2012, Federal Register, Reissuance of Nationwide Permits (FR Doc. 2012-3687). The permittee is aware that this office may reevaluate its decision on this permit at any time the circumstances warrant. Enclosed is a copy of the nationwide permit and the general conditions with which you must comply.

In addition, the following special conditions are made part of this authorization:

1. The permittee understands and acknowledges that evaluation of a compensatory mitigation bank on the subject site is ongoing and the act of granting this authorization will not prejudice any future decisions by this District office relevant to the approval of said compensatory mitigation bank. Any work undertaken by the permittee is being done so at the sole expense of the permittee without guarantee that the subject site will become an approved compensatory mitigation bank.
2. The permittee understands and agrees that no mitigation credits can be sold until the mitigation banking instrument has been executed and all prerequisites required by the interagency agreement are in place/completed. The interagency agreement shall become part of the administrative record and an enforceable provision of this permit.
3. The permittee shall provide CEMVN-OD-S with "as-built" plan and cross sectional drawings of the work site within 60 days following project completion. Where appropriate, notes on the plan and cross sectional drawings shall provide approximate dimensions and the amount of fill material used.

You are reminded that the Nationwide Permit General Condition 30 requires you to provide a signed certification stating that the authorized work was conducted in accordance with the permit, including any special conditions, and that mitigation (if required) was completed in accordance with the permit. We have attached this form. The permittee must sign the attached form and a copy of this nationwide permit authorization letter must be attached. Send this to the Department of the Army, New Orleans District Corps of Engineers, ATTN: CEMVN-OD-S, Post Office Box 60267, New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267.

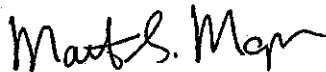
The proposed work would neither affect any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Departments of Interior or Commerce, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any endangered species.

This determination is only applicable to the permit program administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It does not eliminate the need to obtain other applicable federal, state, or local approvals before beginning work.

This verification relative to this nationwide permit expires on March 18, 2017.

Should you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Brian Breaux of this office at (504) 862-1938.

Sincerely,



Martin S. Mayer
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Enclosures

Dear Permittee:

Under the terms of the nationwide permit approval granted to you, you are required by federal regulations, to complete and return this "Completion Notice" accompanied by a copy of your authorization letter to our office at the following address:

CEMVN-OD-S
Chief, Special Projects and Policy Team
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

If at a later date you decide not to perform the work, as approved by the nationwide permit, please advise this office so that your file can be so noted. If you have any questions and would like to speak with a Corps of Engineers representative, please call (504) 862-2287.

COMPLETION NOTICE

Permit Number:
MVN 2011-03213-MB

The work authorized in the permit referenced above was completed in accordance with the Department of the Army authorization and applicable general and specific conditions. In addition, mitigation (if required) was completed in accordance with the permit conditions.

Name (Please print)

Signature

Date